



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter

10:00 a.m. In Person & Live Streamed



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~ ORDER OF WORSHIP ~

**Please stand if able.*

Bold denotes unison response.

CHIMES

Karen Needham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Brief announcements from the congregation are welcome. **Those wishing to make an announcement** are asked to be in the front pews at the start of the announcement period. **Prayer request cards** may be found on the tables at the back of the church. **Offerings** may be placed in the marked boxes on the tables at the back of the church.*

PRELUDE *Sweet Spirit of God*

Rob Little/David Catherwood

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of resurrection, renewal and hope,

may our own spirits feel risen, renewed and hopeful.

May the love of God that exceeds all human understanding

hold us in our journeys and questions, our hopes and discoveries.

Today, may the abundant gifts of God be evident to us,

awakening us to the blessings of this life.

***HYMN** *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* Chalice (blue), 215

*Come ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.*

*'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and bleak, is flying;
From his light to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

*Now the brightest season dawns with the day of splendor,
Now the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection,
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.*

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Creator of all life everywhere,
we give thanks for the blessing of Easter faith
and its power to carry us in all our days
and all our experiences --
through joy and sorrow,
through peace and doubt.

Help us to awaken today to the sure presence of Christ,
crucified yet risen,
alive in us, among us and through us,
that we might be his hands, feet and voice in this world.

This we pray in Christ's name and spirit, as we also say together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine
is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE *Bless God, O My Soul*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the first line of the response: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name!". The second staff contains the melody and accompaniment for the second line: "Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!". The lyrics are written below the notes.

ANTHEM *The Empty Tomb* from the Cantata Upon this Rock Pepper Choplin
Senior Choir & Soloists: Judy Robinson, Paul Stansel & Jim Todd

Following this, children may go out to church school.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE Psalm 130:5-7, Romans 12:9-18

SERMON *50 Days of Easter*

Ali Hager

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection* Pilgrim (red), 192

*The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad!
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.*

*Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
And, listening to his accents, may hear so clam and plain
His own "All hail," and hearing, may raise the victory strain.*

*Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin.
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *Hymn of Adoration*

Edward Wetherill

Our preacher this morning is Ali Hager. A member of our congregation and a Deacon, Ali has completed two years of study at Hartford Seminary and will continue her theological education at Yale Divinity School in the fall. She is a Member in Discernment in the United Church of Christ, a process for discerning a call to ministry.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

Director of Music: Mary Lou Keefe

Office Manager: Kristen DiMattia

Duty Deacons: Casey Levine & Hugh Anderson

Coffee Hour: Heather Neumann & Chris Hager

Ministers: Every Member

Sexton: Walt LeGeyt

Duty Trustee: Sue Lampros & Phil LeGeyt

Camera: Kristin Oswald